



# Sedona Mago Retreat Center

*Green Credentials to Create Harmony Between Humanity & the Earth*

Website: [www.SedonaMagoRetreat.org](http://www.SedonaMagoRetreat.org)

Information and contact: Heather Han, 928-204-3391

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This document describes the current and planned **green credentials** that are the expression of the commitment of Sedona Mago Retreat Center ([www.SedonaMagoRetreat.org](http://www.SedonaMagoRetreat.org)) to ecotourism and sustainability. **Mago** means **Mother Earth** in Korean.



The Sedona Mago Retreat Center's green credentials reflect the mission of its parent **Tao Fellowship** ([www.TaoFellowship.org](http://www.TaoFellowship.org)), a nonprofit foundation: **Love for the Earth and Love for Humanity**.

With its unique natural beauty and vortex-energy amid Coconino National Forest, the 160-acre Sedona Mago Retreat Center, founded in 1998, has created an ideal environment for the renewal, training, and healing of its more than 3,000 guests from around the world visiting annually.

Sedona Mago Retreat Center's innovative holistic training programs aim to enhance **health, happiness and peace**, based on the **Brain Education System Training** (BEST) methods, developed by Ilchi Lee ([www.ilchi.com](http://www.ilchi.com)).

Sedona Mago Retreat Center's natural setting has mountains, hills, red rocks, gardens, a lake, ponds, and abundant greenery. Facilities in harmony with Nature and based on **green criteria** include meeting rooms, guest rooms, meditation areas, pool-spa, horse stables, and a water management system.

Sedona Mago Retreat Center's green credentials involve these four areas:

1. **Air**
2. **Land**
3. **Water**
4. **Resources**

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## **Air**

- Central parking lot near the main gate encourages guests to walk the 160-acre Retreat Center.
- Four electrical cars are used by the Retreat Center's educational and housekeeping functions.
- Van service for guests coming from the Phoenix Airport by commercial shuttle, who are dropped off at the Mago Information House, Highway 89A and Bill Gray Road, and then brought to the Retreat Center.
- Naturally purifying the air are the 2,000 Juniper trees from when the Center acquired the property 10 years ago, and 1,272 trees (fruit, Cottonwood, Pine, Oleander, Photinia, Arborvitae, etc.) and 2,040 plants (Butterfly Bush, Rosemary, Common Sage, Mint, Regal Mist, Dropwort, and 50 other varieties) planted in the past 10 years.

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## **Land**

- Buildings are constructed to harmonize, in scale and façade, with the natural landscape.
- 163 pathway lights are solar, and 138 are reduced-output bulbs (converted to 20-watt bulbs from 60-watt bulbs), with planned conversion to all solar-powered lights.
- Old Casita Guest Rooms were designed by a Frank Lloyd Wright student, into the hillside for esthetic and temperature reasons; constructed in the late 1980s. Some have solar-powered water heaters; more installations are planned.

- New Casita Guest Rooms were built to have cross ventilation; constructed in 2006. The plan is to convert to all solar-powered water heaters in a few years.
  - Mago Hall, second largest meeting room with a 200-seat capacity, is a stressed membrane structure, built by Sprung Instant Structures, having a heated floor, and excellent insulation and ventilation attributes.
  - Mulch is used around trees, produced on-site from wood left-over wood from construction projects.
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## **Water**

- Water from four wells is used for drinking, washing, and watering plants (planned to be reduced and eventually eliminated as the gray-water system is expanded).
  - Water run-off from mountains is captured to fill the man-made lake and the two ponds terraced above it.
  - Earth Hall uses a system in which run-off is stored in a septic for watering the plants around it.
  - Gray-water recycling system takes water from all Casita Guest Rooms and Welcome House (sinks, bathtubs/showers and toilets), filters it four times, stores it in two 10,000-gallon tanks (from AdvanTex Treatment Systems), and sends it through rubber pipes to water trees and plants.
  - The gray-water system also pumps the filtered water to four small ponds, where 190 plants (Dropwort, Lilies, Pygmy Rubra, Pickerel Rush, and Yellow Ribs) around them specifically purify the water.
  - Casita Guest Room signs urge guests to use towels and linen longer before changing them.
  - Some Casita Guest Room showerheads save water; the plan is for all to have them.
  - All toilets are low-pressure; some have a sign that all paper is to be put only in near-by receptacles.
  - Low-pressure toilets and waterless urinals are planned for a new building (to be tested and if found effective, installed elsewhere).
  - Solar pump for the fountain in the Lake is planned.
  - Conversion of water in the swimming pool and hot tub to saline (salt water) from chlorine is under consideration.
  - Plastic Retreat Center-logo water bottles for sale to enable guests to refill from large spring-water urns during their visit, to replace sale of bottled water, planned.
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## **Resources**

- Dining Hall gathers food items for composting, 14,600 gallons a year, used in the Organic Garden. Manure from the Horse Stables fertilizes the Organic Garden.
  - Vegetarian meals (with fish) are served in the Dining Hall, thus using less of the world's food resources.
  - In season, various vegetables and fruit grown in the Organic Garden are served in the Dining Hall.
  - Paper towels and toilet paper are from recycled materials are planned.
  - Linen from recycled fibers are planned for the Casita Guest Rooms.
  - Recycling system for paper, plastic and glass is being planned; the staff would have to transport these materials to a recycling station, as no service wants to come out to the Retreat Center for pick-up.
  - Use of ecologically friendly cleaning supplies is planned.
  - Ecologically friendly propane in the Dining Hall kitchen, under consideration.
  - Spinning water wheels that produce electricity in gutters and drain areas when it rains, under consideration.
  - Use of rechargeable batteries for wireless devices, planned.
  - Electricity is saved, as the Casita Guest Rooms do not have televisions, telephone and wireless Internet.
  - Major installation of large solar panels and possibly windmills for providing electricity for all buildings is under serious consideration.
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